

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following two paragraphs on page 10, line 7

To this end, the present invention relates to peptides comprising amino acid based on a fragment of the protein human lactoferrin (hLF). The fragment of hLF that are used as a basis for the invention is constituted by the amino acids in positions 12-40, the sequence of which is: V-S-Q-P-E-A-T-K-C-F-Q-W-Q-R-N-M-R-K-V-R-G-P-P-V-S-C-I-K-R. In the description single-letter symbols are used to denote the amino acids, while three-letter symbols are used in the appended sequence listing. These symbols, which are well known to man skilled in the art, have the following meaning: A = Ala = alanine, C = Cys = cysteine, D = Asp = aspartic acid, E = Glu = glutamic acid, F = Phe = phenylalanine, G = Gly = glycine, I Ile = isoleucine, K = Lys = lysine, M = Met = methionine, N = Asn = asparagine, P = Pro = proline, Q = Gln = glutamine, R = Arg = arginine, S = Ser = serine, T = Thr = threonine, V = Val = valine, W = Trp = tryptophan and X = Xaa = a variable amino acid. Ac and NH<sub>2</sub> in some of the sequences denote an acetyl (CH<sub>3</sub>CO-) group and an amino group, respectively, that have been used to modify the amino and the carboxy terminals of the peptides.

The peptides according to the invention may have either of a linear or a cyclic form.